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ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-15	AID-01	AMAD-01	A-01	CA-02	CCO-00
	CEQ-01	CIAE-00	SJK-01	COME-00	CTME-00	C-01	DEAE-00
	DINT-05	DODE-00	DOEE-00	DS-00	EB-01	E-01	FBO-01
	HA-09	H-01	IMMC-01	INM-01	INRE-00	INR-01	IO-19
	LAB-04	L-03	ADS-00	M-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	NSF-01
	OCS-06	OES-09	OIC-02	OIG-01	OMB-01	OPR-01	PA-01
	PM-01	PRS-01	P-01	RP-10	SCT-03	SIL-01	SNP-01
	SP-01	SR-01	SSC-01	SSO-00	SS-01	STR-20	TRSE-00
	T-01	USIE-00	USSS-00	FMP-01	EPAE-00	/138W	

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O 111926Z FEB 92
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8254
INFO USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PM

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 CARACAS 01460

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PREL, MARR, PINR, PHUM, ASEC, SENV SNAR, PGOV, VE
SUBJECT: PART 5: AFTER THE COUP ATTEMPT, FEBRUARY 11:
- NUGGETS

REF(S): CARACAS 01413 AND PREVIOUS

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT
2. GOV SAYS NO INVESTIGATIVE COMMISSION APPOINTED
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THE GOVERNMENT-OWNED TV CHANNEL 8 REPORTED ON FEBRUARY 12 THAT NO COMMISSION WAS APPOINTED TO INVESTIGATE THE COUP ATTEMPT. BASED ON PRESS REPORTS, REFTEL HAD REPORTED THAT CAP ESTABLISHED ON FEBRUARY 9 AN EXECUTIVE COMMISSION COMPOSED OF RETIRED DEFENSE MINISTERS AND MILITARY INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS.

3. AD RECOMMENDS EXTENDING SUSPENSION OF CONSTITUTIONAL
- RIGHTS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J OLSON
CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED
DATE/CASE ID: 03 AUG 2006 200503206

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EL DIARIO DE CARACAS OF FEBRUARY 11 REPORTS THAT ACCION DEMOCRATICA'S OPERATIONAL COMMAND WILL RECOMMEND THAT THE GOV EXTEND THE SUSPENSION OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS UNTIL AFTER FEBRUARY 27, THAT IS, THE 3RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE CIVIL DISTURBANCES OF 1989. DURING THOSE DISTURBANCES, CIVILIANS LOOTED STORES AND THE SITUATION WAS BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL BY THE MILITARY. (COMMENT: AS A RESULT OF LAST WEEK'S COUP ATTEMPT, AD IS NOT SURE THAT THE GOVERNMENT CAN COUNT ON THE MILITARY IN A SIMILAR SITUATION.) THE OPERATIONAL COMMAND ALSO POINTED OUT THAT FEBRUARY 12 IS THE "DAY OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE", AND THAT THERE COULD BE SOME DISTURBANCES.

4. CONGRESS WILL EXAMINE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
- SUSPENSION OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

THE CONGRESSIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (COMISION DE MESA) WILL EXAMINE ON FEBRUARY 11 THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
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SUSPENSION OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS DURING THE LAST WEEK. THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE MINOR CAUSA R PARTY, PABLO MEDINA, IS PUSHING FOR THIS DEBATE BECAUSE "WE WANT TO RAISE TO THE (ATTENTION OF) PARTIES THAT LAST TUESDAY SUPPORTED THE DECREE SUSPENDING CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTIES, THE POSSIBILITY OF REVISING THIS DECISION, BECAUSE THIS SITUATION OF EXCEPTION HAS DONE GREAT HARM TO THE COUNTRY."

FURTHERMORE, THE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE FOR SOCIAL COMMUNICATIONS WILL HAVE AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING LATE FEBRUARY 11 TO DISCUSS THE MEDIA'S DENUNCIATION OF GOVERNMENT CENSURSHIP DURING THE LAST FEW DAYS. COMMISSION PRESIDENT OSCAR YANES SAID THAT THE DENUNCIATIONS WERE "VERIFIED" AND THE COMMISSION WILL MEET TO DISCUSS PRESS CENSORSHIP. YANES CRITICIZED THE GOVERNMENT FOR NOT HAVING A CLEAR POLICY ON WHAT CAN BE PRINTED AND NOT PRINTED.

5. COPEI CONDEMNS INTERFERENCE WITH THE MEDIA

AFTER DELIBERATING ALL DAY ON FEBRUARY 10 ON THE EVENTS OF FEBRUARY 4, COPEI'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONDEMNED THE

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GOV FOR ABUSING THE MEDIA, AND RECOMMENDED TO THE GOV TO
IMPLEMENT THE SUSPENSION OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS WITH
"PRUDENCE AND FIRMNESS." COPEI SAID THAT THIS IS THE
ONLY WAY TO DEFEND DEMOCRACY AND CONSTITUTIONAL RULE.
THE PARTY ALSO ASKED THE GOVERNMENT TO FULLY INVESTIGATE
THE COUP ATTEMPT, AND FIRST VICE PRESIDENT ENRIQUE PEREZ
OLIVARES SAID THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD "NOT GO HALF-WAY (IT
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ITS INVESTIGATION), AS HAPPENED WITH THE INCIDENT OF THE
TANKS DURING THE PRESIDENCY OF JAIME LUSINCHI. THIS
WOULD BE THE WORSE THING THAT COULD HAPPEN TO THE
COUNTRY." COPEI SECRETARY-GENERAL EDUARDO FERNANDEZ
SAID THAT "WITH THE SAME FIRMNESS THAT WE CONFRONTED THE
COUP ATTEMPT WHICH WE CONDEMNED, SO ALSO WE REJECT THE
ABUSES OF THE GOVERNMENT IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE
SUSPENSION OF CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEES."
COMMENT: THESE COMMENTS APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN MADE PRIOR
TO GOV DECISION TO REMOVE CENSORS FROM MEDIA ENTITIES.

6. TABLANTE WAS IN CONTACT WITH GOVERNMENT DURING COUP

THE INTERIOR MINISTRY IN A COMMUNIQUE REJECTED THE
ALLEGATIONS OF AD PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE CARMELO LAURIA
THAT ARAGUA STATE GOVERNOR CARLOS TABLANTE WAS INVOLVED
WITH THE COUP PLOTTERS. THE MINISTRY SAYS THAT TABLANTE
WAS IN CONSTANT CONTACT WITH CAP AND CAME TO CARACAS THE
DAY AFTER THE COUP.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 CARACAS 01460

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PREL, MARR, PINR, PHUM, ASEC, SENV SNAR, PGOV, VE
SUBJECT: PART 5: AFTER THE COUP ATTEMPT, FEBRUARY 11:
7. CAP INAUGURATES WORLD CONGRESS ON NATIONAL PARKS

PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ (CAP) OFFICIALLY
INAUGURATED THE FOURTH WORLD CONGRESS ON NATIONAL PARKS
AND PROTECTED AREAS ON FEBRUARY 10. OF THE MORE THAN
ONE THOUSAND PARTICIPANTS, ABOUT 400 ARE FOREIGN
GUESTS. THE GOV BELIEVED IT IMPORTANT FOR THE
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CONFERENCE TO CONTINUE DESPITE LAST WEEK'S COUP ATTEMPT.
IN HIS OPENING SPEECH, CAP THANKED THE CONFERENCE
SPEAKERS FOR SUPPORTING THE CONTINUATION OF DEMOCRACY IN
VENEZUELA AND RAISED THE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS FACED BY
DEMOCRACIES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

CAP POINTED OUT THAT "THE (UPCOMING) MEETING IN RIO DE
JANEIRO WILL NOT SATISFY THE EXPECTATIONS OF DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES NOR THOSE OF THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, IF WE DO
NOT SINCERELY TACKLE IN A CONSTRUCTIVE SPIRIT THE BASIC
PROBLEMS OF DEVELOPMENT, OF POVERTY, OF INADEQUATE
NUTRITION, OF THE ERRADICATION OF UNHEALTHY LIVING
CONDITIONS, OF THE LACK OF ACCESS TO (BASIC) MEDICAL

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CARE AND THE INSUFFICIENCY OF EDUCATION, AS FUNDAMENTAL
CAUSES OF ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION, EVEN IN THE NATURAL
AREAS (NOW) ESPECIALLY PROTECTED."

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